[English]

Neem Based Pesticides

*262. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether pests and vectors resistant to pesticides have been effectively controlled by the Neem-based pesticides; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote the Neem-based pesticides and to popularise organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Neem based insecticides have ben found to be effective against some insect pests and vectors of Agricultural importance including those that have developed resistance to commonly used chemical pesticides.

(b) Major steps taken in this regard are as under :

1. Simplification of registration procedures for promotion of need based pesticide formulations;
2. Commercialisation of neem based pesticide formulations during the period of provisional registration. 35 commercial formulations of neem based pesticides are alreay registered for use in the country;
3. Inclusion of neem based pesticides under the overall ambit of IPM; and
4. Promoting the use of biopesticides, bio-fertilizers and organic manures including neemcake.

[Translation]

Research and Development under White Revolution

*263. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether stress has been laid on the research and development work for the last many decades under the White Revolution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of institutions engaged in the research and development work;

(c) the average amount being spent annually on all such institutions;

(d) whether these institutions have achieved success in the development of milch cattle in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the future plan of action in this regard; and

(f) the present percentage of the developed livestock to the total livestock in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the past decades considerable efforts has been directed towards the research and development for dairy development in the country. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) alongwith State Animal Husbandry Departments, State Agricultural Universities (SAU), Non-Government Organitions and farmers organisation have been involved in the research and development work related to programmes addressing the problems for enhancing milk production. The ICAR through its four major institutions, namely, National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Central Institute for Research on Buffalo (CIRB), Hissar, Project Directorate on Cattle (PDC), Meerut and Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar have directed their efforts on various research aspects of dairy development. Major development programme was through Operational Flood - 1, II and III and Technology Mission in Dairy Development.

(c) The amount being spent annually for Dairying by the Ministry of Agriculture was Rs. 362.91 crores during 1995-96.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) These Institutions have achieved success in the development of a number of new/improved cattle dairy breeds viz., Karan Fries, Karan Swiss, Frieswal and Sunandni. A number of cross-bred genotypes produced from various exotic breeds are under performance testing and breed formation. In addition non-descript buffaloes are being upgraded with breeds like Murrah, Nili-Ravi, Surti and other dairy buffalo breeds. Future plans include use of high potential pure-bred and cross bred cattle germ-plasm fodder development, nutrition improvement and application of modern bio-technologies for augmenting production and reproduction.

(f) About 10% of the country's cattle population (about 18 million) are cross-breds.

[English]

Regularisation of Forest Land

*264. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be plesed to state :

(a) the area of forest land on which encroachments for cultivation etc. have been regularised till date, State-wise;